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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT VEB Serumwerk Dessau

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. VEB Serumwerk Dessau (formerly Anhaltische Serum Industrie Dessau, ASID) is located at Seminarplatz in Dessau. The address officially used is Seminarplatz 3. The entire plant complex is located in a residential area of the city roughly five hundred meters west of the west exit of the main railroad station.

2. The plant has three main buildings:

- a. A large laboratory building in the shape of a "U". Its base is to the north, bounded by an unidentified street running west from Seminarplatz; its open side faces south. The east wing runs along Jahnstrasse, which branches off Seminarplatz and goes south. The west wing is shorter; it runs along an unidentified street west of and parallel to Jahnstrasse. The walls of the laboratory building are of solid stone; the building has a basement and three stories. There are only a few rooms in the uppermost story, which is not entirely completed.
- b. The administrative building, a former residential building. It is located south of the west wing of the laboratory building and is separated from this building by a small garden and yard. Access to the plant complex is through the administrative building. South and east of the administrative building a large garage and locksmith shop close the open side of the "U" formed by the laboratory building. Gardens and scattered ruins lie farther to the south.
- c. East of the laboratory and administrative buildings and separated from them by Jahnstrasse is the pharmaceutical building. This building had a basement and only one story until the middle of 1952, when construction of two additional stories was begun. Although the roof on the third story is built, the new construction is not yet completed. The walls of the building are made of reinforced concrete; the roof is of concrete about thirty centimeters thick. The basement of the building is occupied by the Pharmaceutical Department of the plant and contains a number of

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laboratories and a supply depot for chemicals. The first floor houses the Research Department, with a number of laboratories, and the Shipping Department. As of late February 1953, nothing was in the two new upper stories. East and south of the pharmaceutical building are several wooden buildings in which glass containers and pails are stored.

3. The plant has a large warehouse at Paul-Koonigsplatz in Dessau.^{2/}
4. VEB Serumwerk Dessau formerly belonged to VVB Pharma, but was later separated from it and made a so-called D-enterprise^{3/} under Main Administration for Chemistry (Hauptverwaltung Chemie) in the State Secretariat for Chemistry, Stones and Barths. In January 1953 it was returned to Pharma, but it was understood that it would be re-affiliated with the State Secretariat in April 1953.^{4/}
5. The firm has a retail outlet at Rainstrasse in Dessau. Negotiations were under way in February 1953 for closing this retail outlet and for transferring to MZ the entire sales business of the firm. There is no other retail outlet in [] Germany.
6. The works has three outlying stations:^{5/}
 - a. Tornau, where horses and sheep are kept.
 - b. Rottenau, Kreis Loburg, mainly for the keeping of swine and cattle (Rinder).
 - c. The Luisium^{6/} in Waldersee, serving as a quarantine station and as a pool for small animals such as rabbits, rats, mice, guinea pigs.
7. The administration of the works includes the following personnel:
 - a. Theobald Rau (SED), director.
 - b. Dr. Vogel (fnu) (SED), technical director. He became successor to Dr. Heinig (fnu) in mid-January 1953 when Heinig joined the staff of the Island of Bioms Institute. Vogel is a veterinarian previously employed at the Jena abattoirs.
 - c. August Leitz (SED), production chief.
 - d. Karl Broemme, chief of production control (Produktionslenker); he is responsible for work norms.
 - e. Dr. Kriegel (fnu) (LDP), commercial director. []
[]
 - f. Hans Maerz, chief accountant.
 - g. Fritsche (fnu), acting head of personnel. []
[]
Freeze's secretary, Frau Teloh (fnu) (SED), then took over the direction of personnel. Fritsche has been acting as Frau Teloh's substitute since early 1953 while she is attending a party school.
[]
8. The plant has the following departments:

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- a. Veterinary medicine, headed by Dr. Hill (fnu) since January 1953.

[redacted] The following technicians are under Hill's supervision:

- 25X1 Dr. Beckel (fnu), responsible for the dissection of small animals.
 Dr. Rumpf (fnu), head of the Tornau station
 25X1 Dr. Budel (fnu), in Tornau with Rumpf
 Dr. Stoehr (fnu), head of the Rattenau station

- b. Human medicine, headed by Dr. Christian Koepfel [redacted]
 [redacted] Frau Rothe (fnu) (SED) is Koepfel's assistant.

- 25X1 c. Pharmaceuticals, headed by Wolfgang Piesker (SED). His assistant is
 Fraeulein Kraehe (fnu) (SED) [redacted]

- 25X1 d. Research, headed by Dr. Zimmermann (fnu). Dr. Voliemo (fnu) and
 Fraeulein Dr. Narm (fnu) are working under Zimmermann.

9. At the end of February 1953, the plant had between 1,200 and 1,500 swine (Rottenau).
 25X1 About 450 new swine are needed per quarter. There is a sufficient supply
 from Hungary. The status of other animals at the Serumwerk is as follows:

- 25X1 a. The stock of horses (Tornau) averages 270 for serum production and
 less than ten slaughter horses. No new purchases were made between
 October 1952 and late February 1953.
- b. About 10 cattle (Rinder) are permanently kept on hand (Rottenau).
 There is sufficient supply for replacements if needed.
- c. The stock of sheep (Tornau) averages 35. Sufficient replacements.
- d. The stock of dogs (Luisium) is about 60. Sufficient replacements.
- e. The stock of rabbits (Luisium) is about 300. Replacements are hard
 to obtain because there is only one large rabbit farm in East Germany,
 located in Oschatz. Planned purchase of 2,000 rabbits in 1953 will
 probably be impossible. Until late February 1953, only 75 new
 rabbits could be bought.
- f. The stock of guinea pigs (Luisium) amounts to about 300. Replacement
 has been difficult but has been successful so far.
- g. The stock of white rats (Luisium) is about 10. There is a sufficient
 supply from a small rat farm in Halberstadt.
- h. The stock of white mice (Luisium) is about a thousand. Replacements
 are bought at irregular intervals, sometimes three hundred per week,
 sometimes none during several weeks. There is a sufficient supply.
- 25X1 i. Snakes, which are kept in a snake house at Seminarplatz 3, are
 imported from time to time via DIA from Bulgaria and Switzerland.
 In 1952, 250 sand vipers were imported from Bulgaria. DIA placed
 an order for the import of snakes [redacted] in 1953.

10. Maintenance and replenishment of the plant's animal pool is threatened
 by the increasing shortage of animal food in East Germany. Other shortages
 affecting the works are: vegetable oils, calcined soda and strychnine.

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11. Production of the following items was started in 1952:

25X1 a. Vitamin D.

25X1 b. Globinal, an agent against stomach ulcers made from the blood lost by women during child birth.

c. Dextran, an agent against stomach sickness.

25X1 12. In mid-1952 DIA placed an order with the works for delivery of a certain product to Korea; the nature of the product was kept a secret. The product was in glass bottles which were wrapped in cardboard. Several bottles were packed into wooden boxes, 120 by 60 by 50 centimeters large. The order specified that the boxes were to be labelled in the Russian language. They were loaded in a sedan and a small delivery car and brought to Frankfurt/Oder. In February 1953 DIA gave another order to the plant for Korea.

1/ [] Comment. Among the laboratories in the building are the virus laboratory and the dextran laboratory. The latter is provisional; it is to be expanded later.

2/ []

3/ [] Comment. Enterprises directly under a Ministry.

4/ [] Comment. This has not materialized. It is known that the plant was transferred, together with most of the enterprises belonging to VVB Pharma, to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. []

5/ [] Comment. The Serumwerk Berlin-Weissensee is not a branch of the Dessau works and not affiliated with it in any capacity.

6/ [] Comment. A former property of the Duke of Anhalt.

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